

# SPECIAL NOTICE

April 28, 2005

For further information contact:  
Telephone Information Center  
1-800-647-7706 or (360) 705-6676

Alternate Formats (360) 705-6715  
Teletype 1-800-451-7985

## Taxes on Telephone Switched Access Lines

The Department of Revenue collects certain telephone program excise taxes on behalf of the Department of Social and Health Services (RCW 82.72.020). Those taxes are the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) and Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) taxes.

The amount of tax for the following fiscal year is determined by dividing each program's respective approved annual budget by the number of switched access lines in the prior calendar year reported to the Department (RCW 43.20A.725 and 80.36.430). Additionally, the Department must announce the amount of the taxes to local exchange companies and the Utilities and Transportation Committee no later than May 1 of each year. This special notice satisfies this statutory obligation.

For Fiscal Year 2006, the monthly telephone program excise tax rates are as follows:

Telecommunications Relay Service	10 cents per switched access line
Washington Telephone Assistance Program	14 cents per switched access line

These rates will be in effect for the period July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

For convenience, the Department of Revenue combines these taxes on the Department's excise tax return with the state E911 tax (excluding wireless state enhanced 911 tax). All three of these taxes are based on the number of switched access lines. As a result, the combined monthly tax rate on switched access lines for Fiscal Year 2006 will be 44 cents per switched access line:

TRS	10 cents
WTAP	14 cents
E911	20 cents
Combined rate on return	44 cents

Carriers are reminded that although these taxes are combined for tax reporting purposes, state law requires that they be separately stated on consumers' bills.

To inquire about the availability of this document in an alternate format for the visually impaired, please call (360) 705-6715. Teletype (TTY) users please call 1-800-451-7985.